

TOP SECRET EIDER

SC-00620/55

Approved For Release 2001/09/01 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000300200002-6
NSC BRIEFING 13 January 1955

COSTA RICAN "REVOLUTION"

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

- I. Costa Rican fighting culminates nine-month "war of nerves" against President Figueres by Venezuela and Nicaragua.
- II. Leader of rebel forces--estimated 800 men by Costa Ricans--said to be Teodoro Picado, Jr. (son of ex-president) graduate of West Point 1951.
 - A. Leading plotters thought to be
 1. ~~former~~ presidents Calderon Guardia and Teodoro Picado (in alliance with local Communists 1940-48).
 2. Mariano Fournier (brother-in-law of ex-president Calderon, fought with Castillo Armas' Army of Liberation in Guatemala and may be rebels' contact with Castillo.
 - B. Force at Villa Quesada was believed to have been less than 100 men.

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1. Armed with US M-1 rifles and

Browning machine guns.

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C. "Airforce" so far observed consists of
AT-6, F-47 and one or two light planes.

III. Planning, material support for attack
probably provided by Venezuelan and
Nicaraguan governments.

A. On 10 Jan Nicaraguan President Somoza
told US Ambassador that "uprising"
would occur by 15 Jan.

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2. After 10 Jan, other report confirmed
that revolution was to start on

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19 Jan, however, OAS action probably
prompted earlier attempt.

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3. [REDACTED]

Nicaraguans attempting in December
recruit foreign pilots (US citizen
DeLarm reported flying).

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B. [REDACTED]

Venezuela and Nicaragua were
then collaborating in plot to oust
Figueres.

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IV. Military developments unclear.

A. Villa Quesada and airstrip, first rebel
foothold, recaptured by government.

B. Other rebel incursions reported at
Puerto Soley, and at Penas Blancas,
near Nicaraguan border.

1. Government still has not controlled
situation.

C. Rebel air attacks early on 12 January.

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- 1. Government claims Venezuelan plane
downed.
- D. Rebels making strong psychological
offensive, with clandestine radio
and threats of bombing.
- V. Plotters may have underestimated government
strength.
 - A. Regels relying on:
 - 1. Psychological offensive,
 - 2. Alleged domestic discontent with
Figueres.
 - B. Venezuela and Nicaragua unlikely
become involved overtly.
 - C. Press reports indicate wide popular
rallying to government in face of
"invasion."
 - D. Only armed force, 1,500 Civil Guard,
led by men of undoubted loyalty to
Figueres.
 - 1. Has been undergoing intensive
training in recent months.

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E. Reserves, reportedly being mobilized,

showed high morale and ability during
training. Reserve total about 3,000
(trained only about 1,800).

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VI.

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plan to take case
to UN Security Council if "aggression"
not halted soon by OAS.